

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Conveying device for conveying workpieces in a production line, the conveying device comprising
~~at least one~~ a driving line divided into several sections and the driving line of each section being able independently from the other sections to convey workpieces, ~~and~~

~~at least one~~ a central drive ~~being provided which drives driving,~~ via a ~~coupling~~ plurality of couplings, the driving line of the ~~section~~ sections for a conveying of the workpieces, ~~and~~

a continuous drive shaft driving several of said sections via the respective ones of the plurality of couplings for a conveying of the workpieces, and

the couplings each being formed by a coupling housing, a stationary coupling disc and a movable coupling disc movable longitudinally in a direction of the continuous drive shaft for engaging, as well as respectively disengaging, the stationary coupling disc so as to independently drive the several sections.

2. (Previously presented) Conveying device according to claim 1, wherein the driving line of at least a first section is at least one of designed essentially identically with the driving line of a second section and the driving line connecting the sections is essentially identical with the driving line in the section.

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3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) Conveying device according to claim 1, wherein the driving line is a roller conveyor which is driven.

5. (Previously presented) Conveying device according to claim 1, wherein two central drives are provided.

6. (Previously presented) Conveying device according to claim 5, wherein the two central drives are arranged on both sides of the driving line.

7. (Previously presented) Conveying device according to claim 1, wherein at least one spur gear is provided, the driving line is a roller conveyor which is driven and the couplings are connected with at least one roller of the roller conveyors of respective sections by the spur gear.

8. (Previously presented) Conveying device according to claim 1, wherein chain drives are provided in the respective sections which transfer a turning moment via toothed wheels and chains from the couplings to rollers of the driving line.

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9. (Previously presented) Conveying device according to claim 8, wherein the rollers of the driving line are driven and are connected to each other in the individual sections by the chain drives with minimal slip.

10. (Previously presented) Conveying device according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the sections is designed in such a way that the at least one section is one of switched on, switched off, and the sections driven independently from each other.

11. (Previously presented) Conveying device according to claim 8, wherein at least one of the rollers of the driving line in the respective section is designed in such a way that it is one of switched on and switched off.

12. (Previously presented) Conveying device according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the couplings is designed in such a way that the at least one coupling is at least one of switched on, switched off, and controlled by at least one of a magnetic, electromagnetic, mechanical, pneumatic and hydraulic circuit.

13. (Previously presented) Conveying device according to claim 1, wherein a chain drive is provided and a size of the coupling is adapted to a size of the chain drive.

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14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously presented) Conveying device according to claim 1, wherein the couplings are formed by a stationary clutch disc, a clutch disc moving longitudinally in a direction of a drive shaft as well as a coupling housing.

16. (Previously presented) Conveying device according to claim 1, wherein the drive of the driving line includes a roller conveyor driven by a spur gear including a spur wheel and a pinion.

17. (Previously presented) Conveying device according to claim 1, wherein the driving line has two longitudinal frameworks, each framework has at least one of a roller conveyor of the driving line and at least one framework carrying a driven roller conveyor.

18. (Previously presented) Production line with the conveying device according to claim 1.